



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/611,453

06/30/2003

James Harold Gray

ATT030073

1614

83902

7590

04/08/2009

AT & T LEGAL DEPARTMENT - GHM

ATTN: PATENT DOCKETING

2A -207 ONE AT & T WAY

BEDMINSTER, NJ 07921

EXAMINER

SALCE, JASON P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2421

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/08/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/611,453	Applicant(s) GRAY ET AL.	
	Examiner Jason P. Salce	Art Unit 2421	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-19,45-50 and 76-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-19,45-50 and 76-80 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/11/2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2/11/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant has amended the independent claims to recite, "***displaying on a screen of the user device***".

The Examiner notes that these limitations still read on the prior art reference Blacketter of record.

Blacketter discloses that the indicator signal displayed on the display screen 116 (**Figure 1**), wherein the determination step is performed by a user device 108 (**Figure 1**). While the display screen 116 and user device 108 in Figure 1 appear to be separate devices, Blacketter teaches that these devices can be integrated into a single unit (**see Column 3, Lines 60-63**).

Art Unit: 2421

Applicant has amended the independent claims to recite, "***wherein the determining is based at least in part on one of the following: a content type select by the user and a genre selected by the user***".

The Examiner notes that these limitations still read on the prior art reference Blackketter of record.

Blackketter discloses that the determining step is disclosed in steps 302-310 in Figure 9, where two actual determinations take place for an interactive mode and an online mode, where if either mode is available an indicator signal is displayed. Prior to the determination steps, a user selects a specification television broadcast signal and displays the television program to the user (**step 302**), therefore Blackketter teaches that the determination steps 306 and 310 only take place after a broadcast television channel is selected by the user, wherein a broadcast television channel is a content type (**also see Column 4, Lines 10-16 for a tuner in the interactive television device 108 for selecting the program, as described in the process of Figure 9**).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 76 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Paragraph 0025 of Applicant's

Art Unit: 2421

specification states that a computer product program (which is stored on a machine-readable medium) can be downloaded as a transmission signal (from a remote computer to a requesting computer), which is non-statutory under 35 U.S.C. 101 (see MPEP 2106[R-6] IV B).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 14-17, 19, 45-48, 50 and 76-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Blackketter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,237,253).

Referring to claim 14, Blackketter discloses receiving at a user device an indicator signal from an interactive television service provider's network (**see step 300 in Figure 9**), the indicator signal indicating availability and location of alternative content (**see Figure 11 for the transmitted table of information (hot key signal) including data that indicates availability and location of**

Art Unit: 2421

alternative content) and containing data representing an indicator form (**see Figure 11 for the table containing a web address**).

Blackketter discloses determining, at the user device and independent of any request by a user of the user device for the alternate content (**see steps 302-306 for determining whether an interactive mode is available for a received television channel, and is therefore independent of any request by a user**), whether the indicator signal is relevant to a user viewing original content provided by the interactive television service provider's network (**see steps 302-310 in Figure 9 for determining an interactive mode based on the received television program**).

Blackketter discloses responsive to determining the indicator signal is relevant to the user, displaying on a screen of the user device an indication that the indicator signal has been received, the indication corresponding to the data representing the indicator form (**see steps 312-314 in Figure 9**). *The Examiner further notes that Blackketter discloses that the indicator signal displayed on the display screen 116 (Figure 1), wherein the determination step is performed by a user device 108 (Figure 1). While the display screen 116 and user device 108 in Figure 1 appear to be separate devices, Blackketter teaches that these devices can be integrated into a single unit (see Column 3, Lines 60-63)*

Blackketter also discloses that the subject matter of the alternative content is different from the subject matter of the original content (**see Figures 5-6 for the interactive mode being selected and displaying travel information that is different from the displayed television program**). Applicant has not

Art Unit: 2421

specifically claimed how the alternative content is “different”, therefore, broadly interpreted the alternative can be different from the original content by the type of information displaying, the format regarding how the alternative content is displayed, or where the data was transmitted from.

Blackketter also discloses that the determining is based at least in part on a content type selected by the user (**see steps 302-306 for determining alternative content based on the television channel currently being viewed**). *The Examiner further notes that Blackketter discloses that the determining step is disclosed in steps 302-310 in Figure 9, where two actual determinations take place for an interactive mode and an online mode, where if either mode is available an indicator signal is displayed. Prior to the determination steps, a user selects a specification television broadcast signal and displays the television program to the user (step 302), therefore Blackketter teaches that the determination steps 306 and 310 only take place after a broadcast television channel is selected by the user, wherein a broadcast television channel is a content type (also see Column 4, Lines 10-16 for a tuner in the interactive television device 108 for selecting the program, as described in the process of Figure 9).*

Referring to claim 15, Blackketter discloses that the data representing the indicator form indicates one of a plurality of possible hot key forms (**see Figure 11 for the indicator form (web address) being one of a plurality of possible web addresses**).

Referring to claim 16, Blacketter discloses that the data representing the indicator form comprises a graphic (**see Column 7, Lines 30-32**).

Referring to claim 17, Blacketter discloses that the graphic is displayed on the screen as the indication that the indicator signal has been received (**see step 312 in Figure 9 for displaying an indicator that an interactive mode is available**).

Referring to claim 19, Blacketter discloses that the graphic is not included in the hot key signal (**see Column 4, Lines 30-46 for the user interface graphics being generated by the interactive television device 108 and further note Figure 11 for the hot key signal only containing the data used to determine if an interactive or online mode is available for a television program**).

Referring to claims 76-79, see the rejection of claims 14-17, respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which

Art Unit: 2421

said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18, 49 and 80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackketter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,237,253).

Referring to claim 18, Blackketter discloses all of the claim limitations of claim 1, but fails to teach that the graphic is pre-selected by the user.

The examiner takes Official Notice that a graphics data that can be pre-selected by a user. For example, it is well known in the art for a user to prefer to see a button as opposed to a check box and select the button instead of a check box in accordance with a user's preference.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify receiver software, as taught by Blackketter, to include GUI display preference settings, as taught by the Examiner's Official Notice, for the purpose of providing a user interface that is aesthetically pleasing and intuitive to a user.

Referring to claim 49, see the rejection of claim 18.

Referring to claim and 80, see the rejection of claim 18.

Claims 45-48 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackketter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,237,253) in further view of Field et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,018,764).

Referring to claim 45, see the rejection of claim 1 and further note that although Blackketter teaches a tuner, receiver, and demodulator portion (**see Figure 2**), Blackketter fails to teach a demultiplexer portion.

Field discloses a demultiplexer 205 coupled to a CPU 215 for extracting indication signals in Figure 3 and Column 7, Lines 27-46.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the receiver/client device, as taught by Blackketter, using the demultiplexer, as taught by Field, for the purpose of providing a system for allowing a user to access Web pages and other Internet resources via a broadcast data stream (**see Column 3, Lines 27-30 of Field**).

Referring to claims 46-48 and 50, see the rejection of claims 15-17 and 19, respectively.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason P. Salce whose telephone number is (571) 272-7301. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2421

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jason P Salce/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2421

Jason P Salce
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2421

April 1, 2009